

What *Monarchie,*  
*Aristocracie,*  
*Oligarchie,* is.  
And  
*Democracie,*



TOGETHER  
With a Brief *MODEL*  
OF THE  
**GOVERNMENT**

OF THE  
*Common - Wealth,*

OR,  
Free-State of *RAGOUSE.*

*Fit for View at this present juncture  
of Settlement.*

By *J. S.*

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# THE GOVERNMENT

OF

*Monarchie, Aristocracie, Oligarchie, and Democracie,*  
Described.

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overnment hath in it this Order, Commanding and Obeying: The first Government was paternal when the Fathers or the Eldest of the Family did command the rest, which lasted all the time that men lived to a great Age. Whilest this Government continued, Law was not invented, because that the Father of the Family, by the Institutions of Nature, could do nothing but what was good for the whole Family; therefore they were not necessitated to seek for Laws to secure them. The first that brake this Order of Government was Nimrod, who usurpt absolute Power, and held people to servitude by Force and Policy. Besides, Families did so much increase, they were necessitated to joyn several small ones together to oppose more powerful and mighty Families who sought for Sovereignty and Dominion. In these Confederacies they united themselves, some Families under one, as their Captain, or Prince, or Monarch: Others into a Democracy, or Number of Magistrates, that were to consult the good of that Confederacy or Society.

It would take up a Volume, to give the several Instances that are in History, of this Nature, the which shall be waved; onely remember, that Abraham did of his own Household arm such a number of men, that He gave Battel to the Kings of the Plain, and recovered Lot from his Captivity.

...sufficiently, or, because that, at the Institution of  
Noble Government, the most eminentest amongst the people, or the people themselves,  
had met together. Even so upon a Change of Government it falleth out, that  
the Government receiveth its Form from them in whom Power is. The chief  
of the Four Governments are, first, Monarchy, that is, by a single person,  
who is bound by vertue of his Office, to rule according to the Laws of the  
People for the profit of all: But it often falleth out, that that sort of  
Government degenerateth, and cannot be kept within its Limits and  
Bounds: But, on the contrary, conspiring in behalf of its own Interest,  
against the Interest of the people, it thereby converteth it self into Tyranny,  
the worst of Governments. The Tyrant ruleth by his Will, and layeth  
aside the Laws, and consulteth not the Interest of a people. A Monarchy  
is a dangerous Government, in regard it can so readily make of it self a  
Tyranny. It is the desire of Mankind to be absolute, and a Monarch shall  
never want Flatterers to prompt and hasten him to a Tyranny; because,  
under a Tyranny, they can the better oppress the People, and arrive to  
Greatness and Wealth by the People's Ruine. They hold the people by  
their own Arms and Treasure, in Obedience to the Tyrant, only for his  
Profit and Commodity, because he onely communicates the benefit of his  
power to such as conspire and are Confederates with him, in holding the  
people to their Servitude.

*Aristocratical Government*, is when the Noble-men bear sway, or such a  
number of men, as at the first founding, or constituting of that Government,  
were Chief, and had Presidency of the rest. Such is the State of *Venice* at  
this day, which suiteth well with its Situation, and the distance of the rest  
of its Seigniorie; but it would scarce serve any other Common-wealth,  
in regard that the rest of the Seigniorie are Forreigners either under their  
Protection or Obedience, they being Subjects to the Government, nor  
Members of it; and there is but few in the City, but what have share in  
the Government. This sort of Government would not be durable in a  
large Common-wealth, because that the Policy of this Government naturally  
must prevent and suppress the increase of other Noble Familie, in order  
to its own preservation. Those that are excluded, when once grown rich,  
and thereby attained to Education, do desire to have share in the Government,  
and shake off Servitude, which causeth Changes: Besides, the great  
men in this Government do create a distinct Interest from that of the publick,  
by fortifying the Security of their own Families; and if once they  
should fall into Factions, immediately the most powerful Faction setteth up  
one of their own Faction to be Prince, or at least the Leader thereof hath  
opportunity, thereby to make himself Prince; as it fell out by the House  
of the *Medici* at *Florence*; and also at *Rome*, by *Sylla*, who was head of the  
Faction of the Nobility, against that of *Marius*, the Head of the popular  
Faction.

ies, who are Annually Chosen

*Oligarchy*, is the Government of a Common-wealth by a few number, who either hold by Policy or Force, the Supremacy, or who have absolute Authority given to them, Such were the *Triumvirate* amongst the *Romans*; Such also were the Thirty Tyrants amongst the Athenians, to carry on some Notable Undertaking, or to Determine and Arbitrate some difference as was blown big by Factions in the Common-wealth: the which power proveth Immediately dangerous, if not called in, and Nulled, so soon as the occasion is over, for which it was ordained; No Government can be more dangerous then this is, where the People are divided either in Civill or Religious Respects: in such a Case there shall be nothing but Changes, Murder, Miseries of all kinds, and destruction produced in the Common-wealth; it onely Respecteth the good of those that have the Government, and those that adhere to them: For the rest of the people, they must bereave them of their Wit, Money, and Arms. This was an Excellent *Oligarchy* Erected by *John of Leyden* at *Munster*; and was like to have been here in *England*, by a certain People that are unconstant, unlimited, spiritually proud, and notoriously Ignorant; who think none to have Right in Government, but themselves.

*Democracy* is a Government, where the Governours are Elected by the People out of themselves; sometimes called Free-State, or Popular State, or Common-wealth: This kind of Government by the People, is the most Natural, and best sort of all Governments; they Elect their Magistrates, which are to continue in power but one year, or less; they Trust not their Arms in the hands of one Person, but they are managed by a Councel: This is the best sort of Government, because that the persons do not continue long in Trust: the which is the onely means to keep them from Corruption or Oppression. When they shall be reduced to a private Capacity, and be subject to give an Account of their Trust, doth not that Common-wealth stand better Assured to be free from Corruption, then that Constitution that shall secure the persons Governing, and protect them from Justice: He who doth continue alwayes in power, is enabled by virtue of his power to secure himself from being questioned; and maketh use of his Authority that should be to discourage Evil doers, to defend himself in Evil doing. But when the Common-wealth is large, and they send their Deputies, and Invest them with their Legislative power, who meet and Consult about making Lawes, Peace and War, and the management of other State-Affairs; it is more orderly and freer from all manner of Faction, than it would be, if the People should meet all in one Body, and make

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... for every one that can arrive to C  
... Elected for the Next Representative: the wh  
... in this Government (to one in any other sort of Go  
... themselves forth to acquire Parte, and to fit themselves  
... the Publique, either by Counsel or Arms.

I will here say nothing at all of the Defects of this Government, and  
the Remedy: for of any other Government: it shall be done shortly in a  
Volume. Here I will give you a brief Modell of the Government of  
the Common-wealth or Free-State of *Raguse*, situated in *Dalmatia*,  
near the Bottom of the Adriatick or Gulph of *Venice*. Readers here take  
notice, That a Common-wealth thus Constituted, though small, is able to  
preserve it self against the most powerful Princes; The Councils propor-  
tionably of such a Common-wealth, are more strong, and their Swords  
more sharp, then a Prince's. This Common-wealth or Free-State main-  
taineth its self by its Just Impartial Policy, in perfect Freedom and  
Strength, notwithstanding they border on the Tyrannicall Turk's Domi-  
nions.

There are in this Kingdom of Ragusa, which is a small  
island, two hundred and thirty five Families, who are divided  
into three hundred and thirty five Citizens. These Citizens are  
divided into three hundred and thirty five Families, and each  
Family is divided into three hundred and thirty five Members.  
The Citizens are divided into three hundred and thirty five  
Families, and each Family is divided into three hundred and  
thirty five Members. The Citizens are divided into three  
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divided into three hundred and thirty five Families, and each  
Family is divided into three hundred and thirty five Members.

The Policy of the Council (so called in regard of the Great  
the Rector, who consists of eleven Persons, all of diverse Families; who  
are the Heads of the Common-wealth. They receive and bear  
the Affairs and Demands of the Subjects, and receive from them  
the Money and Rent like; and are as a Council of the  
Common-wealth, and so answer to the Citizens  
concerning their Affairs. And these twelve Persons are  
elected to them, and report the rest to the Rector of the Council.  
They continue but one year in the Office, and are afterwards  
elected by the Citizens, and are then elected into the Office  
the next Year, the 15th of January.

The Rector who is head of all the Council, is chosen in the same  
Council by three Electors, as they do in all other Offices; and of these  
Electors the one is elected by the Citizens, and the other two  
are elected by the Rector, and are then elected into the Office  
the next Year, the 15th of January.

The

## The Government of the Common-wealth of Ragoufe

**R**agoufe hath not been alwayes a Common-weal; for that it hath obeyed divers Lords at divers times; sometimes *Grecians*, sometimes *Albanians*. But since it hath embraced this kind of Government, they have been in some reputation. The *Ragoufians*, when as they sought to reduce the Town to a Common-weal, followed (for the most part) the order of the State of *Venice*. Being thus resolved, they first instituted a Great Council, knowing, that it was the foundation of a Common-weal, and as it were the firm Basis or Ground-work of their City. All Gentlemen of the City enter into this Council, having attained to the age of Twenty years, and they are admitted proving their Gentry. In this Council they create all the Magistrates of the City, which are such as I will set down.

There are first the *Pregadi*, or Great Council, which should be commonly Sixty. There may be many Gentlemen of one Family; for the Families in time are reduced into a small number. These have charge of the Affairs of the Common-weal, and do judge of Civill Causes; they also judge of Criminal Causes which are of Importance in regard of the persons, as if any Gentleman be accused, or hath committed any Crime. They continue a year in this Charge, and are changed, as they are void, for that they are not all created at one instant, but one after another, as they end.

The Petty Council (so called in regard of the Great) is the Council of the Rector, which consists of eleven Persons, all of divers Families; who assist the Rector or Head of this Common-weal. They receive and hear the Petitions and Demands of strangers, and private men, Letters, Embassadors, and such like; and are as a hand that presents the things which come before them, to other Magistrates, and go afterwards to Officers appointed for such matters. And these decide some of those things which are presented to them, and report the rest to the *Pregadi* or Great Council. They continue but one year in this Charge, and go out together; and the others which are created by the Great Council, enter into this Office with the new Rector, the first day of January.

This Rector, who is head of all the Councils, is chosen in the Great Council by three Elections, as they do in all other Offices; and of these Elections, the one is made by scrutiny by three Councillors of the Rector; and the two others are made by Lot. The Rector remaineth but one Month



yet when he is one

A Ductor in Arte Magistra.

These are the Officers which the Councillours upon working dayes are chosen upon the first dayes on some occasions. But if the Rector be not chosen, the first of the Councillours enters into his place, yet they dispatch no business without his presence. They give this Rector a Lieutenant, who hath jurisdiction in matters which do not exceed three Duckats of Gold, and he is for Civil matters onely: The Councillours cannot be chosen Rectors the year that they are in their Magistracy.

Next, there are five Purveyors, who are fifty years old and upwards, and must be of diverse Families. They have authority to cause all expeditious made by any Magistrate whatsoever, to be received, and they must be present when as the Councils assemble. These may be made Rectors during their Magistracy, and are so commonly. They are of the Chief of the Town, of great authority, and in a manner always of the Council.

After these, are the six Consuls which hear Civil Causes, at first for any sum whatsoever. They are most commonly men of great authority, and which enter into Council with the *Pregadi*, and they frame the process of such things as they judge. The parties are not accustomed to make allegations; but these Consuls, hearing the matter in question, determine what Justice requires, and draw from every Cause two Duckats in the hundred. They cannot be Rectors for the space of two years, lest they should alter their proceedings in Civil Causes, and to the end the people might be soon dispatched in their Suits; for they do continually attend them.

There are also five Criminal Judges, and Expeditions go from them, according to the Judgments which they make. Gentlemen are excepted; for that in Criminal Causes they go before the Great Council, and they that have Fees of the Commonweal answer before the petty Council. These Judges are made Rectors, as the Purveyors be.

There are moreover three Officers upon the Art of Wool; these do commonly hear the differences that grow betwixt men which exercise that Trade. They enter into the Great Council, and may be made Rectors.

This Common-weal hath also a Colledge of 30: into which there may enter many persons of one Family. They take knowledge of Appellations unto the sum of three hundred Duckats, and every one of them hath three Duckats yearly for their Wages; which is done, for that all Officers are fixable, if they attend not their Charges; for otherwise they would not accept them, for they are of small profit. When any Office is void, it is supplied by one that is in some other Office. If one of the *Pregadi* dies, they supply his place by one of the Purveyors, or of his Colledge.

There are six Captains of the Night, who, one after another, have the Guard of the City in the Night, with the *Hungarians*, who are about one hundred,

...articles, which go into Government  
of this Commonwealth, are all ordered  
cel, and some of them remain in charge, seven in all  
twelve

By this often changing of Officers, they prove  
the Embleme of a Free-State. The continuation of any Persons, or Coun-  
cels, or Senates, are but Defects; unless that the Senate were also to be elec-  
ted, as well as the Great Council, or Parliament; it is hard if the people  
cannot be trusted with Election. It's true, the people of England would  
if intrusted now at this Juncture of time, elect such as would deprive them  
of the blessed Government of a Free-State; but that must not be an Argu-  
ment to deprive them of their Right: they must be intrusted with Election  
with such Qualifications, as may preserve the Interest of the Common-  
wealth. Those that alledge, that a Free people ought not to be limited in  
that Case, may also alledge, That a Physician must not hinder his Patient  
of such meat or drink as will ruine him, nor force him to take such medi-  
cines, as will cure him. Liberty consisteth not in every ones doing what  
he listeth; but true Liberty is such a thing, as a convenient and necessary  
Bondage; that it ought to be limited in such a thing: If not, it will be  
to the detriment of another; this Liberty would not consist with Society.  
He that would assassinate himself, must be deprived of his Liberty to do  
so horrid an act. England yet was never a Free State; but it will be, if  
the Legislature can hit upon the Mark of denying themselves, in perpetu-  
ating their Power. No doubt but the People may be trusted with their Li-  
berty in that point, and that with safety, if they had tasted once of the  
blessed Fruits of the Government intended, and much pretended to.

FINIS.